



## Activity 403C Adaptations

# Purse-web Spiders in Action

### Objective

Show how spiders catch their prey by making a 3-D model of the Purse-web spider's "purse."

### What You Need

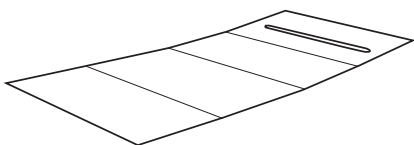
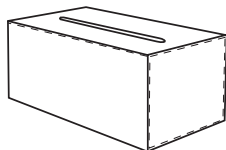
Leaves, sticks, and dirt  
Crayons  
Scissors  
String or Yarn

Tissue paper box  
Cotton balls  
Glue

### Safety

Follow your parent's and teacher's safety rules.

### Directions



1. Cut out the top of a tissue paper box - where the slot is that allows the tissue to pass through. Leave enough of the cardboard box attached so that it may be rolled into a tube shape.
2. Stretch or pullout cotton balls. Glue them to the inside of the tube. This represents the silk that the spider uses to line the purse.
3. Roll the box into a tube. Allow the glue to dry.  
You may want to use a spray can as a support for the cardboard. Just wrap the cardboard around the spray can and place rubber bands around it until it dries.

4. Camouflage the outside of the tube with sticks, leaves, and dirt. A true Purse-web Spider would build the web at the base or side of a tree it may even resemble a half-buried root.

Then, the Purse-web Spider would wait until an insect landed on the tube. At that moment the spider would bite through the tube with its fangs and pull the insect into the tube.

5. Draw an insect or cut-out one (see page 2). Tape a piece of string to the insect.
6. Find a partner.  
Have one person be the prey and dangle the insect over the purse net.  
Have the second person be the spider.  
Put your hand inside the purse net (tissue box).  
Use your index and middle fingers as fangs.  
Use these two fingers (fangs) to "catch" to prey and pull it back into the tube.  
Take turns being the predator and the prey.

7. Describe how the Purse-web Spider catches its prey? Does it build a web?

### Go Further

1. Learn how spiders build a web. Watch an orb-web spider in action.  
*SpiderRoom.info . . . Spider Webs . . . Build an Orb Web*
2. Go on a web safari. See how many different kinds of webs you can find.  
*SpiderRoom.info . . . Spider Webs. . . Safari*

### Spider Math

1. A Purse-web Spider costs three dollars and ninety-five cents to buy. If you give the cashier five dollars to buy the spider, how much change should you receive?
2. If a Purse-web Spider has eight legs, how many legs total would eight Purse Web Spiders have?



## Spider Literature

1. Read all about silken purses and diving bells in the book, **How Spiders Make Their Webs**, by Jill Bailey.  
*SpiderRoom.info . . . Spider Yarns . . . Books . . . Fiction Titles*
2. Learn more about spider webs.  
Read the book, **Spiders**, by Kate Petty.  
*SpiderRoom.info . . . Spider Yarns . . . Books . . . Non-Fiction Titles*
3. Build your own spider tongue twisters. Share them with a friend. See who can make the most challenging spider tongue twister. Here's an example to get you going:

*Wise spiders with will weave webs wonderfully well.*

